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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/574,449	05/19/2000	Tom T.J. de Groot	PHB 34,345	8620

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BRIARCLIFF MANOR, NY 10510

EXAMINER

TRAN, TRANG U

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2614

DATE MAILED: 07/13/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/574,449

Applicant(s)

DE GROOT ET AL.

Examiner

Trang U. Tran

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 April 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 4-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 4-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Response to Arguments*

1. Applicant's arguments filed April 27, 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In re pages 7-8, applicants argue, with respect to claim 1, that the cited reference fails to anticipate the invention as recited in claim 1 because the cited reference Oh discloses only speakers 12 while claim 1 recites "enables selective output of the two or more audio channel signals of a plurality of external speakers and one or more speakers..."

In response, the examiner respectfully disagrees. Oh et al discloses in col. 4, lines 30-32 that "Further, the output of third selector 62 is also supplied to the audio output jack MA for connection to **an external speaker**". The external speaker of Oh et al anticipates the claimed one or more speakers and the pair of speakers 12 of Oh et al anticipates the claimed plurality of external speakers as discussed in the last Office Action.

In re pages 8, applicants argue that the rejections of claims 13 and 18 fails for at least the same reason set forth above with regard to claim 1.

In response, as discussed above with respect to claim 1, Oh et al discloses all the claimed subject matter.

In re pages 8-9, applicants argue, with respect to claim 7, that item 4 of the previous Office Action, merely concludes that the one external speaker is a center

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channel, without citing any basis for the conclusion and one of ordinary skill in the art would not have regarded the Oh CD player 34 as the "audio receiver".

In response, applicant's arguments have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Haroun et al. (US Patent No. 5,787,259).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1, 4-6, 11-16 and 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Oh et al (US Patent No. 5,646,699).

In considering claim 1, Oh et al discloses all the claimed subject matter, note 1) the claimed a tuner configured to receive and separate broadcast video and audio signals is met by the video signal processor 36 for selectively receiving and signal-processing the video signal V1 from television signal receiver 32 or a video signal V2 from compact disk player 34 (Fig. 3, col. 3, lines 14-32 and col. 4, lines 34-56), 2) the claimed a display screen coupled with a display driver arranged to receive and display video signals from the tuner is met by the CRT driver 48 and the CRT 10 (Fig. 3, col. 3, line 28 to col. 4, line 7), 3) the claimed one or more speakers coupled with audio signal processing means arrange to receive, process and output two or more audio channel

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signal from the tuner is met by the audio signal processor 38 and a pair of audio converters (speakers) 12 (Fig. 3, col. 3, line 33 to col. 4, line 44), and 4) the claimed an input for a further audio signal, said input coupled to a control and switching means operable (1) to connect said input to the audio signal processing means, (2) disconnect the coupling of tuner, audio signal processing means, (3) automatically set the receiver to provide a predetermined volume for the one or more speakers, and (4) enables selective output of the two or more audio channel signals to a plurality of external speakers and the one or more speakers, whilst coupled to said input is met by the amplifier 60 and the audio input amplifier 68 which are amplified in order to generate a **single audio signal level from the different audio signals levels** of the television audio signal A1 and the compact disk audio signal A2 and the third selector 62 (Fig. 3, col. 4, lines 8-65).

In considering claim 4, the claimed wherein the control and switching means is operable to connect the audio signal processing means for each channel to said input is met by the microprocessor 84 which generates switching control signals X1 to X6 for controlling the selectors 74, 44, 50, 54, 72 and 62, respectively (Fig. 3, col. 4, lines 8-65).

In considering claim 5, the claimed wherein said control and switching means is coupled to said display driver and is further operable to selectively disable video signal display on said display screen is met by the selector 44 which selects and outputs video signal V1 from television receiver 32 or video signal V2 from compact disk player 34 (Fig. 3, col. 3, lines 38-63).

In considering claim 6, the claimed further comprising user operable input means, wherein said display driver is configured to generate for display a menu of user selectable items including connection of said audio signal processing means to either the tuner or said input is met by the remote controller (Figs. 1 and 2, col. 2, line 58 to col. 3, line 27).

In considering claim 11, the claimed further including a user operable input means to enable selection of the audio signal processing means to either the tuner or input is met by the fifth selector 72 which selects and outputs an audio signal from television receiver 32 or at least one signal from among a plurality of externally input audio signals A11, A12 and S-A (Fig. 3, col. 4, lines 8-44).

In considering claim 12, the claimed wherein a volume of each of the one or more speakers and the plurality of external speakers are substantially equal is met by the amplifier 60 and the audio input amplifier 68 which are amplified in order to generate **a single audio signal level from the different audio signals levels** of the television audio signal A1 and the compact disk audio signal A2 (Fig. 3, col. 4, lines 8-65).

Claim 13 is rejected for the same reason as discussed in claim 1.

In considering claim 14, the claimed wherein the audio signal processing means includes volume control, and the control and switching means fixes operating parameters by setting the volume control to a predetermined fixed level is met by the surround processor 64 and the amplifiers 60, 68 which is amplified in order to generate a single audio signal level from the different audio signals levels of the television audio signal A1 and the compact disk audio signal A2 (Fig. 3, col. 4, lines 8-33).

In considering claim 15, the claimed wherein the tuner is arranged to output audio signals on two or more channels, the receiver comprising a speaker coupled with respective audio signal processing means for each such channel is met by the dual-channel (L/R) signal (Fig. 3, col. 4, lines 8-33).

Claim 16 is rejected for the same reason as discussed in claim 5.

Claim 18 is rejected for the same reason as discussed in claim 1.

Claims 19-20 are rejected for the same reason as discussed in claims 14-15, respectively.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 7-10 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oh et al (US Patent No. 5,646,699) in view of Haroun et al. (US Patent No. 5,787,259).

In considering claim 7, Oh et al disclose all the limitations of the instant invention as discussed in claim 1 above, except for providing the claimed coupled with an audio receiver and, via the audio receiver, to the plurality of speakers, wherein the audio receiver has an output for a centre audio channel connected to said input of the television receiver. Haroun et al teach that the data is the information transferred between the electronics devices and the EC 15, for example, the data may be a digital

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audio signal transmitted from the CD player 35 to the receiver 40, the receiver 40 then produces an analog audio signal from the digital audio signal and provides the analog audio signal to speaker 45 (Fig. 1, col. 4, lines 19-38 and col. 7, lines 14-43). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the audio receiver as taught by Haroun et al into Oh et al's system in order to provide the significant advantages beyond the basic improvement in audio quality.

In considering claim 8, the claimed wherein the audio receiver comprises audio signal processing means connected to receive and process audio signals from the television receiver tuner and output at least some of the processed signals on the centre audio channel is met by the audio signal receiver 40 (Fig. 1, col. 4, lines 19-38 and col. 7, lines 14-43 of Haroun et al).

In considering claim 9, the claimed further comprising one or more additional audio signal sources connected to the audio receiver is met by the VCR 25, the DVD 30 and the CD 35 (Fig. 1, col. 4, lines 19-38 and col. 7, lines 14-43 of Haroun et al).

In considering claim 10, the claimed further comprising one or more video plus audio signal sources coupled with the television receiver, the television being configured to pass audio signals from such sources to the audio receiver for processing is met by the VCR 25, the DVD 30 and the CD 35 (Fig. 1, col. 4, lines 19-38 and col. 7, lines 14-43 of Haroun et al).

Claim 17 is rejected for the same reason as discussed in claim 7.



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6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Trang U. Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-7358. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 AM - 5:30 PM, Monday to Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John W. Miller can be reached on (571) 272-7353. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

TT  
July 11, 2005



Trang U. Tran  
Examiner  
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